



The Parish Record

The First Church and Parish in Dedham

www.dedhamuu.org

Volume CXXVI, No. 14

April 12, 2006

Calendar

April

- 16, Sunday, 3:00 PM: Missing Links
- 17, Monday, 6:30 PM: Aerobics
(Mondays and Wednesdays)
- 20, Thursday, 7:00 PM: Membership
Committee
- 21 – 23, Friday to Sunday: Cakes
Retreat at Stonehouse
- 25, Wednesday: Alliance 125th Annual
Meeting

May

- 9, Tuesday, 7:30 PM: Parish
Committee
- 11, Thursday, 8:00 AM: Building and
Grounds
- 12, Friday, 6:30: Cakes

The Parish Record is published biweekly.
Tyler Carpenter, Interim Editor
670 High Street
Dedham, MA 02026

Rev. Dr. Robert R. N. Ross
Interim Parish Minister
Susan Sennott
Director of Religious Education

Church Office:
Hours M-F 9 a.m.–noon
Phone 781-326-7463
FAX: 781-326-7464
E-mail: firstchurch@dedhamuu.org

The next deadline for submissions (note 3
week gap) is April 30. Send notices
directly by e-mail to:
tylercarpenter@dedhamuu.org or
call me with questions: 617-816-9728.

Sundays in the Meeting House

- April 16, 10:00 AM: Easter Sunday. The sermon will be
“Rebirth” by Rev. Dr. Robert R. N. Ross.
- April 23, 10:00 AM: Holocaust Remembrance Day. The
sermon will be “Spirituality in a Religiously Plural World:
Rabbinic Judaism and Our Sense of the Holy” by Rev. Dr.
Robert R. N. Ross.
- April 30, 10:00 AM: Music and Worship Committee Service
- May 7, 10:00 AM: Children’s Sunday.

Focus on Religious Education

When do we meet:

- Sunday, April 16th** – 10 AM: Gather in the meeting house
for our special Intergenerational Easter Service.
(No teaching, **No OWL Class**).
- Sunday, April 23rd** – 10 AM: Social Service Project -
Empty Bowls*. No teaching, but helpers are
needed. OWL meets from 10 to 12.
- Sunday, April 30th** – 10 AM: Prep for Children’s Sunday.
OWL meets from 10 to 12

SAVE THE DATE – May 7th Children’s Sunday & Empty
Bowls Lunch.

At the Easter Service we will be decorating our Traditional
Easter Egg Trees. (See directions below). Following the service
we ask that the children in grades 3 and above stay in the
meeting house to hide chocolate eggs. The younger children will
go to the Parish House and decorate bags until they are called
for the hunt.

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Focus on Religious Education

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On April 23rd we will be making bowls for the Empty Bowls Project, an international effort to fight hunger. We have invited children from the Needham Church to join in this special activity. Local artist, Lisa Houck, will be helping us. In addition to her studio work, Lisa teaches at Dedham Country Day School. You may know her from her classes at the Blue Bunny, or have worn the button she designed for First Night.

* The basic idea for The Empty Bowls Project is simple. The children create bowls, then serve a simple meal of soup and bread. Guests choose a bowl to use that day and to keep as a reminder of all the empty bowls in the world. In exchange for the meal and the bowl, the guest gives a suggested minimum donation of ten dollars. We will give the money collected to the hunger fighting organization of our choice.

Here is the schedule for the remainder of the Church year: May and June

May 7: Children's Sunday – Empty Bowls Lunch (Teachers Needed)
14: Teaching Sunday (Mother's Day)
21: Teaching Sunday (Annual Meeting)
28: Memorial Day: No Church School
June 4: Dedication: All Church Service -- No Church School
11: Closing: All Church Service

Susan Sennott, Director of Religious Education

All Around the Church Community

What would attract a new minister to First Church?

This is the question that has been posted on the Search Info Board for the past few weeks. The responses have been varied:

- Good location
- Beautiful buildings, including the Parsonage
- Challenge of dealing with the variety of beliefs held by members
- Opportunities to help the congregation grow
- Lots of room for new ideas
- Creative people interested in and yearning for spiritual growth
- Vibrant social justice program

We thank you for your ideas. These are among the many things that attract someone to a new job. In addition to these, however, is the important factor of salary. As with any job, the best candidates will command higher salaries. The Search Committee would like to be able to offer an appropriate compensation package to the candidate we choose. We ask that you keep this fact in mind as you fill out your pledge cards in the coming weeks. With your help we can afford the minister that we deserve.

All Around the Church Community

Share the Plate for Clara Barton Camp

On the last Sunday in April we will “Share the Plate” with the Clara Barton Camp, a camp for girls with diabetes. Jesse Braverman attended the camp, and her mother, Mary Clare Cuilla, wrote this letter to help us all understand a little better what this camp does for girls learning to deal with this difficult condition.

My daughter, Jesse, spent her first year at Clara Barton Camp when she was 8 years old. She continued through her mid-teens thanks to a scholarship from the Dedham Branch Alliance. It would have been impossible without this help.

Her first year was crucial for her to regain her independence. She had lost it when she became insulin dependent. They immediately taught her how to take her shots by herself. They were very cautious about the girls’ shots, snacks, meals and activities.

The sessions are 12 days long and she thoroughly enjoyed being free of her parents and baby brother and meeting new lifelong friends. In blueberry season they climbed Gap Mountain and baked muffins with what they had picked. They had joint talent shows or dances with camp Joslyn. The senior campers had a chance to have a “camp away from camp” – independence on top of independence – as well as all the other ever-changing physical and artistic activities.

It was an incredible relief for me to know she was somewhere safe and happy. This was and is still a big thing. We all needed to feel that Jesse was safe and happy. Jesse is still in contact with people from the camp and tries to help them with their fundraising whenever possible. I don’t think she would have missed the experience for the world.

Mary Clare Cuilla.

Meditation Group Forming

Last summer, Jeff and I went to the All Star I Conference on Star Island thanks to the generosity of the Alliance Star Island Scholarship. One of the highlights for me was being part of a mediation group. We met every morning and meditated for 20 minutes as a group. Meditating with a group really helped me stay focused on meditating for a longer period of time and thus helped me to grow in the discipline of meditation. We also discussed this idea at the Value’s Analysis Part 2 on Sunday, 3/19. If anyone is interested in forming a meditation group that would meet weekly and meditate for a specified period of time, please contact Carol Dixon Hutton caroldixon@gmail.com or (781) 461-0522 or the church office. No experience is necessary. Once we see who is interested we can figure out a time.

Thank You

Carol Dixon Hutton

All Around the Church Community

Stewardship Campaign Begins

The Stewardship Campaign began on Sunday April 9th. During the service the committee asked the congregation to celebrate their participation in a free, liberal church by considering their financial and service commitment to the First Church for the following year.

We urge you to fill out your pledge card as soon as is reasonable as you consider the importance of First Church in your life. Your commitment will keep us moving forward on a path of renewal and revitalization. The Stewardship Campaign will end on April 30th. The church's budget for next year will be finalized at Annual Meeting, May 21st after church. The success of the Stewardship Campaign directly affects our church budget. Please plan to attend the Annual Meeting on May 21st.

Our goal is level funding though this will require an increase in pledge income. Last year we took in \$93,000 in pledges including an anonymous \$5000 incentive. This year we seek to maintain this level of giving and encourage pledge increase to make up the \$5000 incentive and for any members we have lost in the past year. We are indeed fortunate that First Church funds (our endowment) will pay the costs of our ministerial search and our upcoming meeting house renovation. As usual we seek to have our pledges cover the cost of our operating budget. We encourage each of you to maintain your pledge or if at all possible to increase it. Pledge cards will be mailed to you for your convenience and your last year's pledge will be on the back of your card.

Also, so to help everyone find their niche or place in our church community, we have included a stewardship pledge card in your envelope. This is a chance for each person to express how they would like to participate in First Church. Feel free to add whatever you would like to the form. We seek your input and greatly value your participation and generosity. Thank you.

The Stewardship Committee

Carol Dixon Hutton, Vicky Berg, Liz Ames, Meg Duncan, Beppy Martin, and Judy Barrington

From First Church Green

The following was an account shared with me by a man I know who lives in Monument Valley. For those familiar with my Oral Traditions Project, it is a good example of “lived religion”.

The evening was a dream. I was lying in the hammock my wife had given me for my birthday, watching twilight set in. Looking up from my woven perch into the slowly darkening sky was making me drowsy, and soothing my senses. I was captivated by the varying shades of blue presenting themselves to the small patch of heaven I could see above me. Shades of turquoise, then medium blue satin, then dark blue velveteen rolled in like lazy ocean waves. Each time I closed my eyes, they reopened to darker tones and a richer color saturation .

I was situated on a small strip of grass facing the sharply peaked roof of our house. A brace of towering blue spruce trees shaded my back. To my left, a magnificent old cherry tree spread its oversized branches in a protective embrace. To my right the garage roof blocked the lights of the nearby convenience store. I could just see the full bodied locust tree peering around the edge of the house.

There was a slight, cooling wind causing the tree branches to sway in slow rhythmic motions. The leaves danced on the breeze, making a barely discernible, soothing rustle in the night air. The multitude of small birds that inhabit our desert oasis were whirring about overhead, causing a ruckus and looking to settle in for the night. I could hear my wife digging in the flower bed near the south wall while I read *The Pollen Path*, a collection of Navajo myths retold by Margaret Kent. I shared a quote with her that I found inspirational:

Remember always to walk in the pollen path of peace and of blessing.
Be still within yourself, and know that the trail is beautiful.
Whenever you are in danger walk carefully and quietly.
Your feet will be blessed with pollen and your hands will be blessed with pollen.
Let your mind and your voice go forward on the pollen path.

My reverie came to an abrupt end as I looked up into the face of my hard working wife. She looked at me and said, “Maybe you could follow the path to the garden. It needs watering, and I am sure you will find pollen there.”

I carefully removed myself from the hammock and moved onto the garden path. I cleared my mind and refrained from voicing an alternate opinion, but my pollen path was turning into a rocky, uphill climb. She followed me into the garden and began weeding as I watered the tomatoes, corn and pumpkins. We started talking about the day's events, and who was being bossy and working too hard and who was just plain lazy. Our three children wandered up the path and joined in. I was soon outnumbered and gave up my defense. Children always side with their mother if they think she is being picked on.

But as I stood there watching, listening, and learning, reality set in and the evening took on a warm, embracing glow. The beauty around me was of a richer, more vibrant nature. There was compassion, caring, understanding, support and above all else, a deep abiding love. All of that, along with the wonders of the natural world, provided me a feeling of belonging, and a sense of being that I could not have imagined earlier.

Whether you are seeking the pollen path or stumble onto the garden path, family plays the most important role in making the journey a success. With them, dreams and reality merge as you walk these trails.

Rob

COME ONE, COME ALL!

You are invited to enjoy

an afternoon of

MAGIC, MUSIC, AND BALLOONS

FUN FOR ALL AGES

SATUDAY, APRIL 29, 2006

2:30 PM

PARISH HOUSE

FIRST CHURCH AND PARISH, DEDHAM

CORNER OF COURT AND HIGH STREETS

PLAN TO COME, BRING FRIENDS

NO CHARGE REFRESHMENTS

INFO: JANET HURWITZ 781-329-1386

JUDY BARRINGTON 781-762-2742

You are invited to an
OPEN HOUSE
at the
DEDHAM FOOD PANTRY

MONDAY, APRIL 17, 2006

6:30 PM

DEDHAM FOOD PANTY IS

LOCATED IN THE BASEMENT OF

ST JOHN'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

50 OAKDALE AVENUE

CORNER OF OAKDALE AVE. AND FAIRVIEW STREETS

JUST OFF OAKDALE SQUARE, DEDHAM

PLAN TO COME, WE NEED YOU!

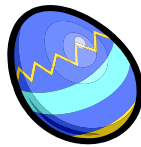
AT OUR EASTER SERVICE NEXT SUNDAY

We invite families and individuals to take part in next Sunday's Easter Service by making decorated eggs to hang on an Easter Egg Tree and by sharing an expression of their hopes for the coming months or years. We hope that you will join in this portion of the service.

To Make a Hanging Easter Egg:

Prepare some "blown eggs" by tapping a small hole in each end of an uncooked egg, blowing the contents out through the bottom hole, and rinsing with cold water.

Decorate the eggs with paints, dyes, fabrics, magic markers, and mark them with your family name and the date.



Choose one egg to bring to the service and hang it on pipe cleaner by bending the tip of the pipe cleaner slightly, inserting it in the top hole of the egg, and bending the other end to hang on a branch.

ON EASTER SUNDAY

Bring your egg with you.

When invited to do so during the service, individuals or families come forward and hang their egg on our Easter Egg Tree. The eggs will be saved for use again in the coming years along with your new contributions.

